

A NEW SPECIES OF RUSSELLIA (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

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It has been some 25 years since the appearance of Margery Carlson's 1957 monographic treatment of Russellia. This was based upon collections up to about 1955. Since that time numerous new collections from Mexico have inevitably led to the detection of novel taxa, the species described below, from Sinaloa, being one of the more obvious; no doubt study of the Russellia collections assembled at yet other institutions will yield further undescribed taxa. I am grateful to M. C. Johnston for the Latin diagnosis and to Prof. Worthington for freely making available his fine collections from the area of Durango, Mexico.

Russellia worthingtonii B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

Russellia elongata accedens sed corollis parvioribus, inflorescentiis plurifloris foliis amplioribus.

Plants suffruticose up to 1.5 m tall; stems terete, Equisetum-like, 4 to numerous ribs, glabrous. Leaves glabrous, not resinous-lepidote, verticillate on primary shoots, opposite or ternate on the secondary shoots; verticillate leaves lanceolate, much reduced and soon caducous; secondary leaves obliquely ovate to somewhat falcate, 3-6 cm long, 1.5-2.0 cm wide; petioles 0.5-2.0 mm long. Inflorescence an elongate, interrupted "spike" the flowers 15-30 at each node, borne in second glomerules which arise from a 3-branched system. Peduncles 6-7 mm long, glabrous. Pedicels mostly 2-3 mm long, glabrous. Calyx lobes ca 3 mm long, long-acuminate, glabrous. Corolla glabrous without, "cherry" when fresh; crimson when dried, 9-10 mm long, narrowly tubular, emarginate, the lobes 1.0-1.5 mm long. Capsule ovoid, glabrous, ca. 3 mm across.

TYPE. MEXICO. Sinaloa: 4.9 road mi SW of Santa Lucia (ca. 23 24'N x 105 55'W), ca 3500 ft., open oak forest, 7 Jan 1983, Worthington et al. 9367 (holotype TEX; isotype UMEX).

Russellia worthingtonii, what with its numerous, cherry-colored, flowers borne in second glomerules, is a strikingly beautiful species, even upon a herbarium sheet. The lower, hollow, stems have the texture and appearance of an Equisetum, being somewhat glaucous and constricted at the nodes. It is clearly related to Russellia elongata Carlson, a species known

only from the type (Sonora: Sapopa Canyon, Rio Maya, Gentry 1287, F), but that species has larger corollas (13-15 mm long) and fewer-flowered inflorescences (3-12 flowers to a glomerule).

It is a pleasure to name the species for one of its only known collectors, Prof. W. D. Worthington of the Biology Dept., University of Texas, El Paso, whose carefully documented, superb collections from the region concerned are a delight to work with.

Literature Cited

- Carlson, M. C. 1957. Monograph of the genus Russellia. Fieldiana Bot. 29: 231-292.